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Page 9

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Page 16

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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 24 VOLUME 16

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HEALTH CARE

Hospital sites shortlisted

MARYANNE FIRTH
AND DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Three sites have been shortlisted by south Niagara mayors as potential locations for a new hospital, Vance Badawey let slip last Thursday.

The Port Colborne mayor was asked for an update on discussions regarding a proposed southern-tier hospital during a breakfast hosted by Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce.

The mayors of Niagara's six southern municipalities, including Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne, Wainfleet, Port Erie and Niagara Falls, have "shortlisted three different sites," said Badawey, who then went on to identify them as Hwy. 140 and East Main St. in Welland; at Lyons Creek and Montrose Rds. in Niagara Falls; and at Montrose and Netherby Rds. at the junction of Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls.

Badawey later said the potential Welland location includes land from East Main St. and Hwy. 140 south to Netherby Rd.

see HOSPITAL SITES | page 2

WAINFLEET: Students don't show up

Beach Day a bust



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A couple of high school students play football on Augustine Beach during Beach Day.

DAVE JOHNSON AND MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Beach Day was a bust. While Niagara Regional Police were ready to deal with a couple thousand high school teens descending on Wainfleet's Augustine Beach, only a couple hundred actually came out.

And that was just fine with Sgt. John Vujasic and Staff Sgt. Tim Welychka, commander of the Port Colborne-Wainfleet detachment.

"There were teens on the beach by 9 a.m. last year ... before we even finished our briefing and by 11:30 a.m. the beach was full," said Vujasic, who organized the police presence this year.

By 1 p.m. last Friday, he and Welychka said there were about 250 teens on the beach.

The two men said it was a welcome break from the crowds of last year and years past.

see BEACH DAY | page 2



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■ HOSPITAL SITES

Narrowing down search

FROM PAGE 1

The mayors, he said, have agreed to pursue those three sites in particular as potential options.

Other south Niagara mayors, however, indicated Thursday afternoon that short list has yet to be made.

In May, Niagara Health System's provincially-appointed supervisor, Kevin Smith, released an interim report on the health system, which included a recommendation for a new south Niagara hospital to replace facilities in Welland, Port Colborne, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie.

Smith tasked mayors of the region's southern tier with working together to re-compute a suitable location. They're expected to provide their recommendation to Smith by June 15.

At the same chamber breakfast Thursday, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said it should also be mentioned the public has been questioning potential costs to "reg" existing hospital sites.

"People want to look at these figures again," she said, citing the cost of the cost to upgrade existing hospital sites versus building a new facility.

That feedback will be "kept in mind as we move forward," she said.

The southern mayors, along with regional and municipal staff, have been looking at population density, access to each potential site from each municipality and transportation times to help determine suitable options for a new facility location, Badawey said last Thursday.

"We don't want any have-nots," he said. "We're trying to have everyone with equal access."

Badawey called himself "optimistic" that the south's six

municipal leaders "can come to a consensus on one of the three areas."

The mayors, he said, will be meeting "in the next few days" with hopes of narrowing it down to one site.

If that selected location is not serviced or within the urban boundaries, services will have to be put in and the boundaries expanded, he added.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said he is "miffed" that others are trying to narrow down the location of a possible new hospital in south Niagara.

"My understanding of where we are right now is we haven't decided anything. We certainly haven't discussed telling people that we have or haven't narrowed down a location. I don't think others should be talking specific location or options," he said in an interview.

Augustyn said the location of a new hospital — if one is to be built — is still up in the air for him. He's considering all criteria as to its possible location.

"It has to be somewhere that makes for the most sense for serving the population. We're still looking at EMS (paramedic) calls, where people live and where people will live in the future."

People have talked about Hwy. 406 and Hwy. 20 and looking at existing (hospital) locations in Niagara Falls and Welland," said Augustyn.

Residents of his own community have let their feelings be known and he's taking what they've said into consideration as well. "I'm taking this very seriously," Pelham's mayor said it is important to continue to do the work that Smith asked of south Niagara's mayors.

"I'd want us to work together

to find sites or a couple of sites that would be the best. That's what I'm doing and I'm committed to doing it. Health care is a very important consideration in south Niagara."

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said he "wasn't aware" that three potential locations had been short-listed, though much discussion has taken place regarding viable options.

"There are not a lot of places that make sense, so let's come up with the best and use Smith's criteria to come up with a ranking," he said.

A recommendation must be made. Diodati believes the decision does not want to go back to Smith divided "because then it's guaranteed that nothing will happen."

While he appreciates the "thought and thought around health care," Diodati said his biggest concern is "that we won't end up with anything."

"We need to make sure the outcome is a new hospital and better health care."

He said he supports shortlisting three sites and rating each based on the necessary criteria.

Niagara Emergency Medical Services representatives were invited to the last meeting of the southern mayors, Diodati said, and they brought along topographic computer-generated maps to assist with the dilemma.

They provided emergency response times and geographic densities to help come up with suggestions for potential locations.



Badawey

■ BEACH DAY



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Beach Day at Augustine Beach in Wainfleet was a bit of bust this year. Niagara Regional Police estimated there were 250 teens on the beach, compared with a crowd of 2,000 last year and expectations of more than that Friday.

Police presence ensured quiet day

FROM PAGE 1

Less teens on the beach meant less of a headache for residents in the area who have had to deal with some bad teens in the past.

Vujasic said the president of the Long Beach Homeowner's Association had yet to show up to speak with police by 1 p.m., when she visited much earlier last year to speak about the day.

"The homeowners are tuned into what's going on ... we're getting a lot of buy-in and support from them," said Welychka.

As the teens entered the area, police had information, checkpoints set up to let them know alcohol was not permitted on Augustine Beach, or any beach in the township. Officers were patrolling beaches at the end of road allowances by motorcycle

and ATV and were also checking side roads in the area to ensure teens weren't drinking there first and then coming into the beach.

Vujasic said officers had patrolled the beaches in the early morning hours on Friday, to make sure teens weren't hiding anything on the beach ahead of time.

Though police were checking all bags and bottles as the teens came in to the beach, at least one teen tried to smuggle in alcohol in a unique way.

"One girl had alcohol in her suntan lotion bottle ... I guess it would taste a bit like coconut," said Vujasic.

The sergeant said one of the more unique ways teens have tried to sneak alcohol on the beach in the past was by using a football.

"They'd use a syringe and inject the alcohol through the air hole and then take it out with the syringe. It'd probably taste pretty rubbery, I wouldn't want to drink it," he said.

Welychka said most teens know the routine and police had only laid on liquor charge by the start of the afternoon, as compared to last year when many charges had been laid.

"They just want to have fun and spend a day at the beach ... it's no different than a weekend at the beach," he said.

Though they want to have fun, some teens, Welychka said, don't think they don't have to behave and act inappropriately and are disrespectful on Beach Day.

see BEACH DAY | page 3

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portraits

■ BEACH DAY

Fun, sand and safety

FROM PAGE 2

But with police putting the message out through the media and at local high schools, most teens understand that all police want is for everyone to have fun and be safe.

"We have parents that drop their children off here, they want to know it's a safe environment," Welychka said.

While Rachel Cochrane and Jasmine Stoop consider Beach Day a rite of passage, it's one the pair had never experienced before.

But that all changed Friday when the Grade 10 Lakeshore Catholic High School students decided to trade their classroom for sunny skies.

"This was our first Beach Day, so we figured we'd come and see what it's like," Stoop said as she glanced along the watersway.

After being on the sandy shores for about two hours, she admit she wasn't very impressed with the turnout.

"We expected it to be crazy," she said, adding it seems many of her classmates had instead opted to head to Crystal Beach.

Stoop believes the rain on June 1, when Beach Day was originally scheduled, put a damper on plans and kept the large crowds from forming in Wainfleet Friday.

While she and her friends will likely participate in Beach Day in the future, plans may be to head out to Crystal Beach instead, she added.

With only a small crowd lining the beach, Cochrane felt the police presence was "a bit of overkill."

The police patrolling the beach and surrounding areas didn't bother Stephanie McDonald.

The Grade 11 student from South Lincoln High School said she felt safer knowing emergency personnel were nearby.

McDonald was at the beach with a large group of her classmates, all who have attended Beach Day in the past.

The unscheduled day off is a "nice break," she said, as it helps to relieve the stress of upcoming exams.

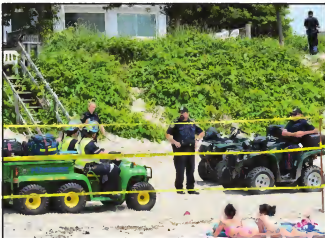
Taking a break from the office, Mayor April Jeffs stopped at the beach to speak with both Vujasic and Welychka to see how things were going.

"This is actually tamer than a typical Sunday here," the mayor said as she surveyed the beach.

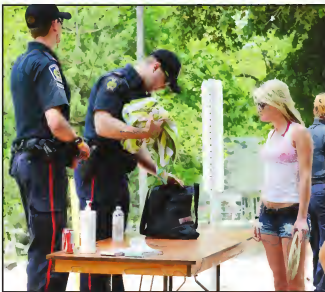
Though this was her second Beach Day as mayor, it was the first time she visited Augustine Beach. She was away for last year's day.

Jeffs had yet to speak with any residents in the area, but said judging by the amount of people on the beach she anticipated feedback would be more positive than in years past.

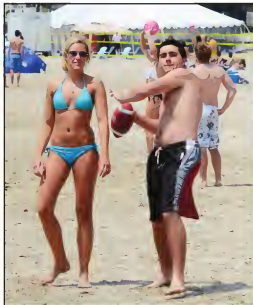
"The students seem to have gotten the message and the police have a real handle on Beach Day."



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Niagara EMS paramedics drive a Gator down Augustine Beach during Beach Day as they get close to Niagara Regional Police officers on ATVs.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
A Niagara Regional Police constable searches a bag at Augustine Beach during Beach Day.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
South Lincoln High School student Ashley Vos, left, watches as schoolmate Aaron Schrum throws a football at Augustine Beach during Beach Day.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Barry Ward, right, and an unidentified woman laugh at the entrance to the old Cove Restaurant in Wainfleet. The parking lot they were watching was slow as Beach Day at Augustine Beach was a bust.

INPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News
Osprey Media Publishing Inc.
228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5
Tel: 905-732-2411 Fax: 905-732-3660
inport@wellandtribune.ca

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ourview

Anti-bullying

Congratulations to the McGuire Liberals.

They've passed an anti-bullying bill that anti-bullying advocates don't like.

One that has reignited the debate over funding the Catholic school system, while the Liberals claim they wholeheartedly support. Meanwhile, details over the legislation revealed little about how the nuts and bolts of Bill 13 will deal with actual bullying incidents, its best-known aspect is the requirement all school boards have to let students create "gay-straight alliances," or GSAs, to combat homophobia and homophobic bullying.

Grasping anti-bullying advocate Lynne McIntyre said, "They passed a gay-straight alliance bill, not an anti-bullying bill."

McIntyre is a member of one of 10 anti-bullying groups that came together in the last year to lobby for better protection for bullied students. They were also worried about accountability requirements for school boards, so families and the public could clearly see how boards were dealing with bullying and the effectiveness of anti-bullying programs.

Bill 13 falls short of that, they say — and they want to keep up the fight. "We're not giving up," said Karen Sebben, founder of the York Region anti-bullying coalition. Bill 13, "is a good equity and inclusion bill. Now we have to get on to an anti-bullying bill."

The anti-bullying groups wanted to see Bill 13 merged with the best of Bill 14, another anti-bullying bill moved by the Conservatives — but that did not happen. Instead, they say, Bill 13's definition of bullying, but does not, include bullying by adults in the school, does not track bullying incidents and lacks effective accountability requirements among boards and schools for how they are actually handling bullying cases.

"School boards are self-governing corporations," said Sebben. "Any corporation, if it practices that negligence, measures what it manages. That's not happening with this legislation."

Meanwhile, there's renewed debate over Catholic school funding, stirred up because Catholic schools complain GSAs don't comply with Catholic teaching, something the Liberals had to have anticipated.

Yet premier Dalton McGuinty, a Catholic, says he supports the Catholic school system and believes GSAs will become accepted in its schools.

One wonders if McGuinty and his government not only want to micromanage what's taught in our schools, but also influence Catholic teaching itself.

Given the changing nature of our society, more secular and religiously pluralistic than it was in 1867 when Catholic schools received constitutionally-enshrined rights, it is probably time for a real debate about public funding of separate schools.

It's underway, thanks to these recent events. But let's do it fairly, without bigotry, and because this province should reflect what the majority of its citizens want.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Morgan's Point and
Forbes Road United Churches

As a newly-ministered member in the United Church of Canada, I found myself in Kincaid, Saskatchewan in July 1962, living in my little house on the prairie, a.k.a. the manse. It was my first exposure to life in a farming community. Within a week or two, I got a quick introduction to the lingo of the locals and promptly added to my vocabulary hitherto unheard words such as augers, seeders, combines, sloughs, summerfallow and prairie oysters!

I also learned that two months prior to my arrival, there had been a "dust bowl" similar to the "Dirt Thirties." In plain English, this meant that the spring rains had not come on time. However high velocity dry winds did, and swept away the top soil as well as the newly planted seeds (akin to what happened in the 1930s).

Now farmers were faced with a dilemma. Repeating the seeding process would double input costs such as fuel and grain and result in reduced income. If the yield turned out to be only average. On the other hand, these seeds could never see the light of day or produce a poor harvest, which would lead to further losses. It was a

readers' views

Banning ATVs the easy solution

Re: ATV, dirt bike noise a neighbourhood nuisance.

Land on both sides of the Welland canal have been used by dirt bikes, ATVs etc. for many years. At present ATVs are not allowed there, which is ridiculous. Everybody should be allowed to use this land for the above activities. This will help keep everybody in one general area, instead of riding everywhere. The police have better things to do than enforce such a stupid law.

In response to the complaints I say this: you live in one of the most densely populated areas in Ontario. If you want peace and quiet, move up north. I approached Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway regarding this problem in May 2010. He told me to submit a proposal. Quad Niagara presented a proposal to council before that. They didn't even listen. Politicians want to ban things when there is a problem. That's the easy way out. Politicians should get their heads out of the sand and find a solution that benefits everybody?

Lynndin Smith
Port Colborne

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Re-seed and receive a great yield

risky business. To seed or not to seed, that was the question. To their credit, virtually everyone who faced this predicament opted to re-seed.

So here I am, in the hottest month of the year, eagerly anticipating the dry heat of Western Canada (as opposed to the oppressive humidity of Southern Ontario whence I had departed). Instead, I was led to wonder whether I had moved to the Maritimes. It rained barn cats and prairie dogs!

The combination of high levels of heat and moisture caused robust growth in the crops. With loss of sun and very little rain in August, heads of grain were bulkier than normal. To make a long story short, farmers were treated to a bumper harvest as fields that normally yielded 25-30 bushels per acre on the average produced nearly twice that amount. Some who had been farming for decades remarked that they had never witnessed yields of this magnitude in their lifetime to date!

How did such prodigious growth spring forth from such an inauspicious start? You see, when the seed was planted, even though there was no water from above, there was still moisture below the soil. As the roots emerged from the seed, they (like many of us) were surprised to find their heads soaked to satisfy their insatiable thirst. Because of the arid conditions, the

roots had to go further and grow longer than normal. Thus the plants got rooted more deeply than they would in a typical year.

When the rains came in July and the roots got their fill and then some (akin to aforementioned Niagara), they went on a growth spurt that was nothing short of phenomenal. Since the root structure was deeper, the stalks could grow taller and support heavier heads of grain than normal, leading to a higher than average yield.

What happened to wheat in the summer of '82 has been repeated in my life on more than one occasion over the past three decades of ministry. There have been dry periods of discouragement when it looked as though the seeds I planted did not have a chance to survive, let alone germinate and thrive. Yet, when I look back, I now realize that when I let my thirsty roots grow deeper than ever before by seeking the Living Water of Jesus Christ, I reaped more abundant blessings than ever before.

So, here is a word of encouragement to all readers who may be living through a "dust bowl" right now. Have your seeds been swept away? Don't get down, give up or recede. Instead, get up, get busy and re-seed. Then get ready to receive a greater yield. By the way, make more room in your Quonset, eh?

Our veterans deserve better

The Conservative Party of Canada likes to say that it supports our troops. The facts say otherwise.

The Conservatives are cutting post-traumatic stress and suicide prevention programs for soldiers returning from Afghanistan, even though suicide rates doubled last year.

At the same time, they are chopping more than \$200 million from Veterans affairs, including cuts to The Last Post Fund, which helps low-income veterans get a proper burial.

It took a six-year battle in our courts to shame them into not clawing back the pensions of our disabled veterans. They have also repeatedly been caught snooping through the personal medical records of veterans advocates to find embarrassing details that can be used to intimidate them into silence. Harold LeDuc, Denis Mangat, Sylvain Chartrand and Sean Bruyere have all suffered from this disgusting behaviour.

Conservatives need to learn that supporting our troops means giving them real respect. It means providing mental

health support to cope with the horrors of war. It means refusing to nickel-and-dime veterans who have sacrificed and left them disabled. It means respecting the privacy of their medical records.

We make a promise to our men and women in uniform that, in exchange for their service and sacrifice, we will be there for them when they come home, to provide support to them and their families.

Our veterans deserve better.

Sean Casey
Liberal Party Critic for Veterans Affairs

What are the facts?

Re: Tribune story — "Miller time for climate"

It is beyond belief that any newspaper would publish a front page story so short on verifiable facts and full of outright misinformation. The bright young ladies in the photograph with David Miller deserve far better from our generations than such political propaganda dressed up as a reality that is false.

see LETTERS | page 5

■ LETTERS

Concerns on facts and flags

FROM PAGE 4

David Miller knows that the IWT at Toronto Exhibition Place has recently suffered a complete breakdown and has had to be rebuilt, all at an enormous expense to the taxpayer. I would question if Exhibition Place is energy self-sufficient 24/7 and think McMiller should actually produce some evidence rather than his own unsubstantiated claims. I would certainly want to know just what percentage of energy, if any, the IWT has ever contributed to Exhibition Place over any extended period of time?

Because of the names of the groups involved I have a feeling that the 40 participants probably still believe that the 'Hockey Stick' graph is true, which of course it is not, and they probably do not accept that the global temperature has not risen in the past decade and more and the disastrous rise in sea level Al Gore was predicting is actually being on predicted minimal levels based on all past records.

Miller's reference to Copenhagen and wind energy is a nonsense. 80%, I repeat, 80% of Denmark's energy is produced from coal-fired power plants. Of the 20% of wind power produced most is at times when Denmark's consumers don't need it, and is sold off to neighbouring countries, usually at a loss.

Of the 20% of green 'wind' energy they claim, up to 15% is clean hydro energy bought back from other countries. This information is no secret and McMiller should research before he opens his mouth.

China is building IWTs and solar panels for export, successfully undercutting many

western countries and causing bankruptcies! Germany's solar industry is just that, bankrupt. China is also opening a new coal fired plant about every week in order to maintain a reliable energy supply.

And to claim a 'green economy' 'has a tremendous effect on creating jobs' is just plain wrong. Again, a minimal amount of research will show that worldwide the creation of one single 'green job' costs an enormous amount of tax money per job, and is at the expense of two to four other jobs lost from other industries. Industrial Green Energy has proved to be a disaster everywhere it has been tried.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

Change your flag

With Canada's birthday coming up (July 1 in case you had forgotten), I suggest it would be a good idea if you took a serious look at the Canadian flag that you might have hoisted.

In virtually all cases, they are nothing but pathetic. Torn, tattered and discoloured. If that's the best you can do, why don't you take it down as it obviously doesn't mean anything to you.

Proper flag etiquette dictates that the Canadian flag does not share a mast with any other flags.

Let's show some pride in one of the most beautiful and recognizable flags in the world.

Hank Colquhoun
Port Colborne

■ BIG BIKE RIDE



Canalside was presented with a volunteer "Heart & Soul" award for the many years of hosting the Heart and Stroke Foundation's annual Big Bike ride, first at the Winchester and now at the Canalside. All told, seven teams that took part raised \$11,099.23 for the ride.

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■ **INDUSTRY:** Steel fabricator has forged solid relationship with Port High

Oskam honoured as a champion

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Paul Peppas knows first-hand how valuable work experience can be for high school students.

It was the helping hand lent to him by J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. that set his career path for the future.

In Grade 11, the Port Colborne high school student had no idea what his plans following graduation would include. Then he was given a placement with the custom steel fabricator.

Peppas has since graduated but is still working at Oskam, where he is putting in apprenticeship hours to become a certified electrician.

He was thrilled to be able to share his story with the crowd at the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce quarterly breakfast last week.

But he wasn't the only one recognizing the efforts of the supportive company.

During the gathering, J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. was presented with the provincial employer champion award for helping students gain

hands-on learning opportunities for their future careers.

Oskam was only one of three companies chosen from across the province to receive the prestigious award.

The award celebrates the deserving partnership that not only assists Port Colborne's youth, but the community as a whole, said Jeff Good, a member of the provincial partnership council.

The council, he said, supports experiential learning in the workplace by not only celebrating successful partnerships, like the one between Port High and Oskam, but also by encouraging more employers to create similar relationships in their respective communities across the province.

Good chairs the selection committee that determines recipients of the award. Winners are chosen based on factors such as the length of time of their involvement and the level of partnership.

Port High and Oskam have been working together for more than 15 years, with the company offering mentoring, co-op, special skills major placements and classroom visits. The company, on average, takes on two co-op students each semester.

Through the partnership, students not only gain a better understanding of the manufacturing industry, but also gain real-world experience that will help them to make decisions about their future career path, Good said.

"It's very nice to be recognized," said plant manager Kevin Langerak, after accepting the award.

Having youths tour the plant and take on co-op opportunities "opens their eyes to what we really do," he said, adding the company uses multiple skilled trades to run its operations.

The partnership benefits not only the students, who gain valuable experience, and the company, which sees its skilled workforce replenished, but also the community, Langerak said.

It has been so successful, in fact, that last week representatives from Hebel Corp. of Buffalo and the Charter School for applied Technologies visited Port High to learn more about partnership between Oskam, Hebel's Canadian operation, and the school in hopes of successfully replicating it.

Certificates were also handed out Thursday to other key members



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne High School graduate and J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. employee Paul Peppas, left, and plant manager Kevin Langerak hold the provincial Employer Champion Award and certificate presented to the company on Thursday.

of the partnership including local Passport to Prosperity co-ordinator Pauline Carroll, district School Board of Niagara co-op education instructor Shawn Coers, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badway and employment and

training consultant Vince Frycia, with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and universities.

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Jeff Good, a member of the provincial partnership council, and Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey present the provincial Employer Champion Award to J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. plant manager Kevin Langrak during the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce quarterly breakfast on Thursday.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

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■ DRUGS: More than 100 marijuana plants seized in Wainfleet home

Grow-op busted

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Niagara Regional Police dismantled a marijuana grow-operation in Wainfleet on Thursday.

Police, who briefly had Wainfleet Fire and Emergency Services and Niagara EMS paramedics standby at the Burkett Rd. home, found and seized more than 100 marijuana plants.

Their estimated value was placed at \$153,000. Growing equipment was also seized when discovered on the second

floor of the home.

Police said the Guns, Gangs and Growers unit has been investigating the home, at 23087 Burkett Rd., which sits at the corner of Burkett and Feeder Rds., since March.

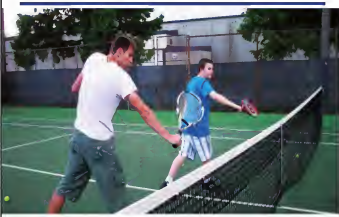
Arrested and charged with the production of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking was Donald Dewitt, 48.

Dewitt was released from custody pending a future court appearance.

In The NEWS

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inPortbriefs

CAR SEAT SAFETY

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MCC Photo

New child car seat safety regulations
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■ **WIND ENERGY:** Residents pack meeting to oppose turbines

Green energy projects on track

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Ten new wind turbines could tower above Wainfleet and West Lincoln by next August, a regional council committee heard last week.

Two green energy projects in West Niagara are on course for completion in 2013. Tom Lewis, project manager for IPC Wind energy, told council's integrated community planning committee Wednesday.

Although he said the two projects of five turbines each have earned the green light from two provincial ministries, turbine foes came out in droves to have their say Wednesday.

"There are lots of unanswered questions," said Catherine Mitchell, speaking for the Wainfleet ratepayers association.



Lewis

Petrowski

"What reassurances do we have that our well-being will be protected?"

Lewis said the Wainfleet Wind energy Project and the HaF Wind energy Project in West Lincoln are both heading for their second public meetings. In West Lincoln, it will be June 19 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Caistor Community Centre, and in Wainfleet it will be June 26 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the firefighters hall.

Lewis said the Ministry of natural resources and the Ministry of Tourism and

Culture have both approved the projects.

"Both projects have reached key milestones," he said.

"Now that we have received letters from the two ministries, we will be moving forward with our final open house."

Mitchell was one of several residents who attended the committee meeting to deny the turbine plans.

She called on the region to follow Wainfleet's lead by passing a bylaw mandating wind turbines be set back two kilometres from any homes

not involved in the plan. at the moment, it's about 500 metres.

The two-kilometre distance, she said, "is not excessive when lives and the well-being of those affected are taken into account."

It's unclear, though, if the region has any authority. St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski raised that issue with the region's planning staff.

Integrated community planning commissioner Patrick Robson said the region had set some green energy

policies before the province "usurped" that authority with the Green energy act. He said the region would need legal advice to know if any offset bylaw could be enforced.

Petrowski, nevertheless, asked following the delegations when he could file a motion to follow in Wainfleet's footsteps with an offset bylaw. He was told the motion must be filed before today's full council meeting.

Smithville resident Tom Shields said wind turbines could render the town unattractive.

"These horizon-spoiling monsters are not attractive to potential newcomers," he said.

Lewis said both projects will produce enough energy to power 2,500 homes. He said they would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 14,000 tonnes per year.

He said building could start by the first quarter of 2013.

The province, he said, has "the most strict setback (rules) anywhere in the world" for homes. That earned him derisive laughter from turbine foes in the audience.

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■ **TEAMING UP:** Businesses, artists working together

Downtown to be filled with art



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Gail Todd, owner of Something Else, and Downtown BIA marketing co-ordinator Jeff Ballin hold up some of the artwork that will be on display across the downtown core during an Art Crawl in Port Colborne on Saturday, June 23.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Art will cover the city's downtown core from Market Square to the Welland Canal, as local businesses and artists team up to present Art Crawl.

Not only will businesses feature the work of local artists and photographers, but many will also have music and musicians inside and outside of their establishments on Saturday, June 23, said Downtown BIA marketing co-ordinator Jeff Ballin and Gail Todd, owner of Something Else, on West St.

The two said there will also be dancers moving throughout the downtown and a few surprises as well for those who come out from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the 23rd.

While an art crawl was held last fall as part of Culture Days, Todd and Ballin said this one is bigger, with a goal of 50 artists in 50 downtown businesses.

Artists are being paired up with businesses across the downtown core and work will be showcased indoors and outdoors throughout the day and into the evening as many businesses stay open until the event wraps at 11 p.m. Even those businesses that are closed, like banks, will have art and photographs displayed in their windows, the two said.

"Crew's Quarters will feature the work of Teagan Workman," said Todd, adding places like 10,000 Villages has artists its dealing with.

Todd, whose businesses already features 25 local artists, will have her windows full and will have a band inside her store as well.

Ballin said there's also some participatory activity where people attending the Art Crawl, or those who happen to be in the area, can join in and do some hands-on work.

Todd said the Art Crawl committee — consisting of herself, Ballin, Elizabeth "Putzy" Madronich, Donna-Marie Zapp, Cathy Peters and Mary Lou Minor — is looking for a smooth wall somewhere in the downtown core so people can do chalk art. A place where they can express themselves, share dreams, desires and things they want to accomplish, creating a community bucket list.

The committee is hoping to have some open-air artists working alongside the canal as well.

Ballin said the event is a win-win situation for both businesses and artists.

For more information on the event, contact Jeff Ballin at downtownportcolborne@gmail.com or 905-321-2122, or Gail Todd at gtoadd@cojoco.com or 289-836-9893. Information can also be found at www.facebook.com/ArtCrawlPortColborne and www.downtownportcolborne.com/calendar.html.

■ **CANCER RUN:** Shaving heads a new tradition

Thinking ahead for the Terry Fox run

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When mid-September rolls around, Nancy Salvage gets a little anxious.

The organizer of the annual Terry Fox Run in Port Colborne isn't anxious over the run and all that's involved with it.

What gives her the jitters is when the clippers are pulled out for the head shave which has become a tradition at the event now.

"Once the clippers go in I'm ok ... it feels good. As long as I have hair, I'll get my head shaved ... I'm committed to it," she said.

This year will mark the seventh year she's done the head shave, and she's not alone. A number of people now get their heads shaved at the run, a fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation.

"People plan for it ahead of time and we do get people who decide at the last minute to come up and get their heads shaved."

Two years ago, at the 30th anniversary of the run, 57 people help set a record for a multi-person simultaneous head shave.

"We'll probably do something big for the 35th anniversary," she said.

This year's run, said Salvage, is Sunday, Sept. 16 at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park and participants can run, walk, bike the one-, three- or five-kilometre route.

"We want to be out there as early as possible, visible and increase our numbers."

Nancy Salvage

"Some people will do the route twice." Though the run is still three months out, Salvage wants people to start thinking about it now and wants people to consider forming teams to take part.

"We had two teams last year, one was two people and the other was a team from Canadian Tire supporting an ill colleague. There's no minimum pledge or registration required for the teams."

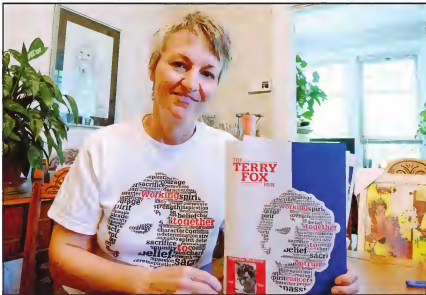
Salvage said the Terry Fox Run will be setting up in a downtown storefront as a headquarters to keep the run on people's minds and as a place for people to pick up pledge sheets or find out more information.

"We want to be out there as early as possible, visible and increase our numbers."

The run, held rain or shine, averages around 200 people a year, with 215 taking part last year.

Since 1985, Salvage said the local run has raised \$177,495.25.

For more information, contact Nancy Salvage at 905-835-0442 or e-mail nancy.salvage@sympatico.ca.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Nancy Salvage, organizer of Port Colborne's annual Terry Fox Run, shows the run's new T-shirt. Since 1985, the run in Port Colborne has raised more than \$177,000.

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NICOLE LEJEUNE
For InPort News

see READING SERIES | page 13



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■ **READING SERIES:** Provocative topic

Title changed for American market

FROM PAGE 12

Nevertheless, Hill firmly believes Canadians "shouldn't be so quick to sweep our own history under the rug" and he hopes Animate's fictional, but still very real story will "add a shred of light into a 'tragedy, making it all the more credible'."

During the Q&A portion of the evening an audience

member asked for clarification as to why *The Book of Negroes* goes by a different title in the U.S. according to Hill, American retailers refused to sell his novel until he changed the title to something that was, in their opinion, less provocative.

Hill says he had no idea the original title would evoke such a reaction. "I didn't use the title to upset or offend anyone,

I wanted to honour and resurrect a historical document to make more aware of our history."

Luckily with the alternative title *Someone Knows My Name*, the novel has found its own success across the border.

To some, *The Book of Negroes* may be shocking but it's so much more. It's brutally honest; it's well researched

and well written. But above all, it's a reminder that while the story may be fictional it doesn't make it any less real.

Those interested in purchasing memberships to the Canadian author's Reading series, which is now preparing for its next 2012-13 season, may contact and leave a message for Lorraine Bertrand at 905-834-0988.



NICOLE LEJEUNE/Tribune Photo

Author Lawrence Hill, right, signs copies of his book *The Book of Negroes* during the Roselawn Centre's Canadian Authors Series presentation on Thursday.

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■ **SKATE PARK:** Uncertainty over construction causes cancellation

Canal Fest Car Show cancelled



DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A car show that's raised more than \$113,000 over the past 17 years for Lakewood Camp and later on, Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, has been canceled this year. And it's in danger of being permanently cancelled, say

Al and Dave Lallouet, the father and son team who run Canal Fest Car Show.

The reason for this year's cancellation, Port Colborne's new skate and BMX park.

The new skate and BMX park is to be built at Lock 8 Park, at the south end closer to Bridge 19A and Mellanby Ave. It's the same

area that many of the 300 classic cars are staged in year after year.

"The city hasn't started work yet and we don't know when they're going to get started ... we knew this might be a problem," says Al, adding work was originally scheduled to begin in April of this year.

Al says he and son, Dave, aren't against the skate-board park.

Dave says the two had appeared before council to speak about the issue. They had asked the park be built across from Lock 8 Park, closer to the fire hall or that construction be held off until after the car show, which is held Canada Day

long weekend.

Both of those requests were turned down, leading to the two to make the decision to cancel the show for this year.

People have already started to call the two men and are mad, not at them, that the show had to be cancelled.

"We were offered an

alternative," says Al, regarding a venue for the show.

He says the two were offered a section of H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park to use on the same weekend as they hold their show.

But that same weekend, the city holds its Flavours of Niagara festival.

see **CAR SHOW** | page 15

CHRISTOPHER'S PIZZA

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■ CAR SHOW

Looking ahead to next year

FROM PAGE 14

Al said the space offered, from behind the bandstand south to the road that passes through the park is not enough to hold all of his cars.

"What would I do with my food vendors... they would have to compete with the food festival. No one would hear my DJ over the bands at the festival."

The pair were also offered use of Westside Arena, inside and outside, and the surrounding baseball fields, but that too would not suit their needs.

With cars at the show worth upwards of \$100,000, Al said he didn't want to risk having any dust or debris from the ball-

fields or parking lot damaging the vehicles.

Al and Dave put a lot of work into the show, taking time throughout the winter to visit indoor car shows across Niagara and beyond. It's how the two get cars for the show.

"We go all over Ontario and start promoting the show in January," says Al. "Our show is fresh every year, we have a 25 to 30% turnover. It's what makes us successful and why everyone likes it."

Dave says the two will miss seeing the great cars and trucks that take part in the show.

"Every year even more amazing cars come out... I'm disap-

pointed not to be able to continue contributing to Sick Kids," says Dave.

Al says not having the show this year is taking away from Sick Kids.

"We're one of the only charities that gives every penny to the charity. Dave and I don't take anything from the show," says Al.

The show this year would have marked the 18th year for the event, which is a huge draw for the city.

"We're going to see what we can do next year. We've asked to have the park for that weekend and hopefully we can get the show to happen," says Al.



File photo

Bill Reilich Jr., in front, and Bill Reilich Sr. polish up the Batmobile at Canal Fest Car and Craft Show in July 2011 photo.

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■ HISTORY: War's last shot in Niagara fired at Zavitz Mill

1812-era mill stone to be rededicated

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — June 18, 1812, marked the day the United States declared war on Great Britain, starting a conflict that was to last almost three years and shape Niagara and the country into what it is today. Nearly 200 years to the day of the war's beginning, members of the Port Colborne-Wainfleet War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee will meet at the top of the hill at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park to rededicate a grist stone from Christian Zavitz's mill.

Tami Daoust, Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's registrar, said a colour party from Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56 and the Paris-Port Dover Pipe and Drum Band will enter the park, from Northland Pointe, up the hill to where the stone sits.

"The ceremony runs from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., but we're asking people to show up at 1:30 p.m.," said Daoust, adding everyone is invited to attend on Sunday, June 17.

At 2 p.m., Port Colborne's town crier, Thomas Pekas, will give a cry of greeting, followed by speech from local dignitaries.

"Members of the Zavitz family will be there ... and at the end of the program we'll unveil the monument."

Re-enactors will also be by the monument, which sits east of the Fielden Ave. entrance to the park.

"It's the major event for the city for the War of 1812," Daoust said.

The importance of the stone, which sat for years in front of Newport Centre, just up the road, was that Christian Zavitz's grist mill

was captured three times during the War of 1812, but was the only mill in the Niagara Peninsula not torched by American forces.

In an interview late last year, Don Anger, a local historian and member of the local bicentennial committee, said the mill, captured all three times by Capt. Cyrenius Chapin, wasn't burned down because the grain inside was not tied to British government stores. He said if it had been burned down, it would have created a great hardship for people in Sugarloaf Settlement. The once-important mill — built in 1750 on the northeast side of the Eagle Marsh Drain and closed sometime in 1834 — is long gone. However, two mill stones, used to grind grain to make flour, survived when the mill was torn down in the 1860s.

While the one stone, on a new pedestal with a new plaque, is now in the park, the other sits on the grounds of the Port Colborne museum.

During research, an old photograph of the mill was found and it was learned the mill also housed British and Canadian forces in Sugarloaf Settlement, the name for the area long before it became Port Colborne.

On Oct. 28, 1814, American soldier John Dixon, renegeing back to Buffalo after a skirmish in Norfolk where British and Canadian soldiers were killed, was shot by a militia guard while trying to find a store for guns near Zavitz Mill.

"It was the last shot fired in the peninsula and the last death," said Anger, adding Dixon made it back to Buffalo before he died.

dave.johnson@surmedia.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Members of Port Colborne-Wainfleet's War of 1812 bicentennial committee and Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum stand around the new location of the Zavitz Mill Memorial at H.H. Knoll Park in Port Colborne in November 2011. The mill stone once sat in front of what is now the Newport Centre and is all that is left of the former mill that stood during the War of 1812. From left are Tami Daoust, education programmer at the museum; committee members Don and Virginia Anger; committee chair Brian Heaslip and committee member James Van Dillen.

■ **COMMUNITY:** Third annual Safety Awareness Day

Serious fun, serious safety at Wainfleet Arena

BOB LIDDYCOAT
InPort News

WAINFLEET — Serious business mixed with a lot of fun activities at the Wainfleet Arena Saturday morning.

The third annual Safety Awareness Day and Bicycle Rodeo attracted youngsters from Wainfleet, Port Colborne and Welland due to

efforts by the Wainfleet Community Policing Committee (WCPC).

They were joined by police, fire, EMS, and other community partners in a joint effort to help make the community a safer place for kids.

The day included the rodeo, interactive fire display, prizes, food, laughter and some serious tips on staying safe.

Const. John DiMartile of the Niagara Region Police Community Services Unit said the bicycle safety portion of the program was similar to rodeos generations of Niagara residents have grown up with, but was streamlined to make it more user friendly to kids and parents.

Policing committee chair Ron Kramer said the WCPC has been conducting the safety day in

Wainfleet ever since they split from their Port Colborne counter parts three years ago.

The Safety Awareness Day efforts are part of the mandate of the committee which promotes public health and safety programs and strategies.

He said the group has a dedicated group of volunteers but noted, "We can always use more members."

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■ **CONSTRUCTION:** May permit values near \$4.2 million

Business building in Port Colborne

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The lake-side city issued building permits worth nearly \$4.2 million in construction during the month of May.

It is a sizable expansion by Thurston Machine that helped Port Colborne's numbers to climb last month. The company's expansion, at more than 2,700 square metres, is valued at \$3.75 million, since the beginning of 2011, Port Colborne has seen several

industrial expansions and several months when building permits totalled millions of dollars, said Dan Aquilina, the city's director of planning and development.

In March 2011, for instance, the city saw a huge spike in its monthly building permits with the approval of the Vale Health and Wellness Centre, reaching a \$32-million total. In September, building permits spiked again with a Jungbunzlauer expansion bringing the total to \$8.3 million.

"It demonstrates the city is still

growing on the industrial end," Aquilina said of recent developments, adding some companies even expanded during the recession.

The expansion of Thurston Machine, on the corner of Elm st. and Barrick Rd., reinforces the work being done by the city to help expand existing industries, he added.

Construction for the Thurston expansion is underway and expected to take several months to complete.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

The \$3.75-million Thurston Machine expansion on the corner of Elm St. and Barrick Rd. accounts for much of Port Colborne's nearly \$4.2-million building permits value for the month of May.



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■ **RECREATION:** Jeffs looking at satisfying youths' request

Skatepark pondered for Wainfleet

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A skatepark could be in Wainfleet's future.

Township Mayor April Jeffs told guests at the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce quarterly breakfast on Thursday that she's looking into the concept of a skatepark for her

community.

Jeffs shared the information after the topic of skateparks was brought up by a business owner looking to find out details of Port Colborne's recently-approved skateboard and BMX park.

While campaigning to win the mayor's seat, Jeffs heard many requests from Wainfleet youths hoping to see a park put in Wainfleet in

the future.

It's an idea Jeffs is entertaining and will be discussing both with the recreation master plan committee and the Wainfleet youth advisory council.

If a park were to be built, it would have to be designed at an appropriate size to suit the small rural community.

"We're not talking about something super elaborate,"

she said, but "something based on population."

Jeffs believes partnerships could be created to help fund the park.

Discussions will be had in the coming months, she said, to try and determine whether the concept can feasibly be turned into reality.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca
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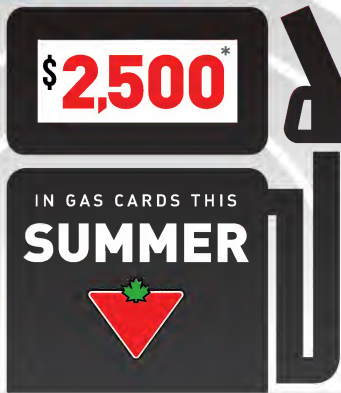
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SKATEPARK ROUNDTABLE



Wainfleet Mayor Jeff Aerts and Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway answer questions from the business community during the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce quarterly breakfast at the Guild Hall, Thursday.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

STUDENTS MAKE FLOWER BOXES



Port Colborne Horticultural Society partnered with the Lakeshore Catholic High School technology students in building two flowerboxes at the Rosaleen Centre. The cedar boxes were constructed in one day under the guidance of construction technology teacher Tino Nucitelli and manufacturing teacher Michael Stevenson. The brackets were made by student Hayden Langeraap. The Horticultural Society is looking for more suggestions for additional flowerboxes and benches within the city. Shown in the inset are student Kevin Sinn, Nucitelli and horticultural society member Pat Bowman.



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(27% average in 30 days)
- Lower blood pressure
- Improve cardiovascular health
- Improve sexual response
- Increase energy & better sleep
- Improve inflammatory response

Nathan Bryan
Ph.D.
Chief Science Officer



"There may be no disease process where his miracle molecule does not have a protective role." Louis J. Ignarro, PhD, a 1998 Nobel Laureate

**We can test your nitric oxide levels
in store for free. The results are immediate.**



Tanya and Ian Birrell

Owners of The Healthy Cupboard

**TWO
LOCATIONS!**

PORT COLBORNE
101 CLARENCE STREET
(across from Food Basics)

905 **835.9806**

FONTHILL
111 #20 EAST
(across from Sobey's)

905 **892.9054**

**NEW
WEBSITE**

www.healthycupboard.ca • healthycupboard@gmail.com

Leading nitric oxide research. Changing lives.